

Terms and Definitions

Active ingredient: The active ingredient is the specific chemical which kills or controls the target pests. Usage data are reported by pesticide product and are converted to an amount of active ingredient. A single method of conversion has been chosen for active ingredients having more than one way of being converted. For example in this report, copper compounds are expressed in their metallic copper equivalent, and others such as 2,4-D and glyphosate are expressed in their acid equivalent.

Agricultural chemicals: The phrase agricultural chemicals refers to the active ingredients in fertilizers and pesticides.

Application Rates: The application rates refer to the average number of pounds of a fertilizer primary nutrient or pesticide active ingredient applied to an acre of land. Rate per acre is the average number of pounds applied in one application. Rate per crop year is the average number of pounds applied counting multiple applications. Number of applications is the average number of times a treated acre receives a specific agricultural chemical.

Area applied: The area that represents the percentage of crop acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. This report does not contain acre treatments. However, acre treatments can be calculated by multiplying the acres planted by the percent of area applied and the average number of applications.

Common name: The common name is an officially recognized name for an active ingredient. This report shows active ingredient by common name.

Crop year: A crop year refers to the period immediately following harvest for the previous crop through harvest of the current crop.

Fertilizer: The term fertilizer refers to applications of the primary nutrients, nitrogen, phosphate, and potash.

Pesticides: As defined by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), pesticides include any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest, and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.

The four classes of pesticides presented in this report and the pests targeted are: herbicides - weeds, insecticides - insects, fungicides - fungi, and other chemicals - other forms of life. Miticides and nematicides are included as insecticides while soil fumigants, growth regulators, defoliants, and desiccants are included as other chemicals. This report excludes pesticides used for seed treatments, for spot treatments, and for postharvest applications to the commodity.

Trade name: A trademark name given to a specific formulation of a pesticide product. A formulation contains a specific concentration of the active ingredient, carrier materials, and other ingredients such as emulsifiers and wetting agents. Some formulations as in the case of pre-mixes, can contain more than one active ingredient.